

*House Approves Conference Report on FY2010 Homeland Security Appropriations*

**WASHINGTON** - The House today approved a House-Senate Conference Report on H.R. 2892, the Fiscal Year 2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, which includes an amendment offered earlier this year by U.S. Reps. Harry Mitchell and Brian Bilbray (R-Cal.), to secure critical funding for security improvements at the border. The Conference Report passed the House by a bipartisan vote of 307 to 114. The measure now moves to the Senate for final consideration.

"This bill will help improve border security, fight drug houses and keep Arizonans safe," said Mitchell.

In June, Mitchell, along with Rep. Brian Bilbray (R-Cal.), offered an amendment to H.R. 2892, the House version of the FY-2010 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, to ensure that the U.S. Customs and Border Protection will have the resources it needs to make critical security improvements to border crossings and ports of entry as it implements the Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (WHTI). Specifically, it added \$4.9 million to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection's Border Security Inspections and Trade Facilitation specifically for Inspections, Trade, and Travel Facilitation at Ports of Entry. The addition was offset by a reduction in the Office of the Under Secretary for Management, so the amendment would not result in any increased spending.

WHTI was the result of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, following the recommendation of the 9/11 Commission to strengthen border security which, as of June 1, 2009, requires travelers entering the United States by land or sea to present a passport or other approved document establishing their identity and citizenship. [Source: [U.S. Department of Homeland Security](#), February 2009]

Also approved as part of the Conference Report was an earmark requested by the City of Scottsdale for \$500,000 to move its current Emergency Operations Center (ECO) to a safer and more accessible location and equip the facility to meet Department of Homeland Security standards. According to the City of Scottsdale, "the Emergency Operations Center is in need of significant enhancements in order to best protect the residents and visitors of the area and

meet the EOC capabilities standards of the federal Department of Homeland Security." [Source: [City of Scottsdale](#) , FY2010 Appropriations Funding Request]

The Conference Report also includes funding for 20,163 Customs and Border Protection border patrol agents, an increase of 6000 since 2006, as well as \$2.5 billion for detention and removal of immigration law violators and \$800 million for border fencing, infrastructure and technology. In addition, the measure includes \$5.7 billion for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) as well as a three year extension of E-Verify, a federal system which allows employers to check the employees' legal status.